

have to fill out, recordkeeping, and tax planning that they have to do, Americans are rightfully demanding a much simpler process. By doubling the standard deduction, collapsing the rates, and closing special interest loopholes, Americans will experience a much simpler process when filling out their taxes.

I know how stressful this process can be for many back home, and I am a firm believer that the last thing you should do is worry about navigating our broken Tax Code.

Mr. Speaker, I posed three questions, and the answer to all three was yes. So instead of bickering about preserving a deduction here, or a tax credit there, I urge my colleagues to unite behind a tax reform bill that would cut taxes for working families, bring jobs back home, and make the filing process simpler for millions of people.

PUT TAXES TO GOOD USE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, no one likes to pay taxes, but when our Founders dreamt of a nation, they knew that our success would rest on every shoulder. So it is not to make us just citizens of this great country, but stakeholders where everyone chips in, where everyone contributes, where everyone has skin in the game.

It is the only way that a gutsy American experiment could work: if each of us is so committed to what this country stands for that we are willing to give a piece of what we earn to help it succeed. Of course, that willingness hinges on a system that would deliver for all of our people.

We pay into a common good because we also reap from a common investment. We send our kids to public schools. We sleep safe at night under the protection of American defense. We wear down roads and bridges with commutes, with after-school pickups, with delivery runs, and family trips. So we do our part, however begrudgingly, however it might strap us or sting us, and all that we ask for in return is that what we give gets put to good use.

The tax reform bill being offered by my Republican colleagues does not put that money to good use—not the money it takes from hardworking American families.

□ 1045

It does not ask families that are living paycheck to paycheck to fork over money that—make no mistake—they do not have so they can invest in affordable housing, so that we can help exhausted parents pay for quality childcare, and so that we can stop middle class kids from being priced out of higher education and ensure that families that are hit by catastrophic medical events don't lose their livelihood—not this bill.

Instead, this bill asks Americans to scrape their bank accounts so that the Trump administration can turn around and use that money to give to the wealthiest among us and make them even wealthier; so that they can make tax cuts for corporations permanent but abandon American workers after a few years; so that they can multiply dividends enjoyed by the 10 percent of Americans who own the vast majority of our Nation's stocks while everyone else gets left behind; so that they can blow a hole in our Federal deficit that again—make no mistake—working and middle class families will be forced to fill with their bare hands for generations to come, for we all know that the moment that this bill passes, you are going to hear those calls for cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security come roaring back from my Republican colleagues.

So for these families, the money that they send to the American Government every year isn't just some meaningless check. It represents the late nights; the double shifts; the school plays and the teacher conferences missed; the bedtimes when you didn't make it home; the vacations you could not take; those endless, countless, thankless sacrifices that you make every single day so that you can take care of the people whom you love.

You deserve a country that will make your contribution count and that will make that investment in your family, too. This bill doesn't even come close.

CELEBRATING REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to celebrate a truly great American and one of the finest men North Carolina has ever produced, the Reverend Billy Graham, who, yesterday, celebrated his 99th birthday.

Born November 7, 1918, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Reverend Graham has devoted his life to spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

While Reverend Graham was ordained as a minister in 1939, it was not until 1949 that he gained the international recognition he is known for today. It was that year that he hosted the Los Angeles Crusade. The Crusade was originally scheduled to last only 3 weeks, but it ended up going on for over 2 months as huge crowds came to hear Reverend Graham spread the Gospel.

In the years since the Los Angeles Crusade, Reverend Graham has traveled across the United States and around the world to spread the Gospel. According to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, in his life, Reverend Graham has preached to nearly 215 million people in over 185 countries and territories around the world.

Reverend Graham has served as a spiritual adviser to political and faith leaders here in the United States and throughout the world. In the 1950s and 1960s, he joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for integrated crusades. In later years, he delivered invocations at the inaugurations of four American Presidents. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan awarded Reverend Graham the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is our Nation's highest civilian honor.

Reverend Graham now resides where he has resided most of his life, in Montreat, North Carolina, where I have the honor of serving as his Representative here in Congress. While, physically, he has slowed in recent years, the power of his work over eight decades is still felt by us all. Through the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, his life's mission continues around the world. In fact, his family's mission has continued around the world.

Perhaps the greatest testament to Reverend Graham's dedication to the Gospel is how he has chosen to spend his centennial year. Rather than celebrate his work, Reverend Graham is devoting this year to celebrating the work God has done through him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of everyone in western North Carolina, all Americans, and so many people around the world, I would like to wish Reverend Graham a happy first day to his 100th year.

I thank Reverend Graham for serving as a role model and spiritual guide for generations of Americans. I thank Reverend Graham for all he has done to help those in times of need, and, most importantly, I thank him personally for what he has done for me.

HONORING CATHEDRAL CITY POLICE CHIEF GEORGE S. CRUM, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service and retirement of one of California's finest, Cathedral City Police Chief George S. Crum, Jr. Chief Crum is an exceptional leader in the community, dedicating his life to public service for over three decades.

He started his career 30 years ago as a police officer with the Fullerton Police Department. His commitment to keeping our citizens safe earned him many promotions over the years, from sergeant, to lieutenant, and, eventually, captain of the Fullerton Police Department. He was appointed as police chief of the Cathedral City Police Department on December 10, 2014, and recently retired on November 2, 2017.

Throughout his career, his dedication to community engagement has helped to ensure justice and build a strong community. He is a member of numerous organizations that promote safety throughout California, including the Riverside County Law Enforcement

Administrators Association, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, and the California Police Chiefs Association.

Not only has he been a strong leader in law enforcement across the region, Chief Crum is also a leader in molding the minds of our students. He was an instructor at Fullerton College for nearly 20 years, and he is currently a Public Safety Academy instructor at College of the Desert in the valley. He serves as a mentor to the next generation of law enforcement leaders in our region, inspiring them to serve their own communities.

I am so humbled to have worked with him over the years to keep the public safe, and I am proud to call him a friend. It has also been my honor to work with him on legislation to provide robust benefits to the families of public safety officers killed in the line of duty.

Chief Crum has given so much to the community over the years, and I have a feeling this will continue even in his retirement.

So on behalf of my wife, Monica, and the entire 36th Congressional District, I want to thank Chief Crum; his wife, Rebecca; and his children, Dylan and Madison, from the bottom of my heart, for their service and sacrifice to keep our communities safe.

While we are sad to see him retire, I wish him and his family the best during his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING PETE M. ORTIZ ON VETERANS DAY

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, this week, on Veterans Day, we honor those who have bravely served in our Nation's military. Our veterans served with incredible selflessness; they served with great courage; and they served with sacrifice, often leaving behind spouses, children, and loved ones to keep our Nation safe and to protect the freedoms we hold so dear. For this, our veterans and their families have earned our respect and our deep debt of gratitude.

On Veterans Day, we take a moment to pause and reflect on their service. So today, I want to recognize the life of one of my district's finest members, Pete M. Ortiz.

Mr. Ortiz passed away on September 14, 2017, at the age of 76. He came from a family that has committed themselves to serving our country in uniform for generations. Since World War II, over 50 members—50 members—of the Ortiz family have bravely served in our Armed Forces, putting their lives on the line to protect our freedoms.

Following his family's legacy, Mr. Ortiz honorably served in the Army National Guard from 1956 to 1960. He was awarded the Marksman Badge and Pistol Bar, an honor presented to soldiers with high marksmanship skills. I was proud to help obtain and personally present him with these medals for his distinguished service.

Mr. Ortiz was also a beloved member of the Coachella Valley. Not only was he a carpenter and avid fisherman, he

was part of a unique desert skydive team, the Desert Skydivers of Coachella.

All those who knew him remember his zest for life and devotion to family. One of his greatest joys was getting his entire family together for a barbecue. His family remembers his masterful skills for grilling, especially carne asada, and his dream of one day opening his own taco stand.

To his wife, Patricia, and children, Pete, Tina, Sherry, and Sally, your father was an example to us all. His bravery, selflessness, and courage in the military are an inspiration challenging us to better serve our own communities. His adventures and curious spirit are a reminder to us all to live life to the fullest and enjoy the people and places that bring us joy.

So on behalf of my wife, Monica, and my daughters, Sky and Sage, we honor the service and legacy of Mr. Ortiz and his entire family.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all of our veterans for their dedication and sacrifice for our country as we honor their service this Veterans Day.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH DOUEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American whom I had the privilege of meeting at the Library of Congress, Mr. Joseph Douek.

Mr. Douek hails from a great family. His father came penniless to America some 70 years ago. He did what is now becoming a lost art in this country—he went to work.

He went to work as a laborer and, eventually, worked his way up to where he owned a successful photography shop. He bought real estate, and he has now retired to a great retirement life, which he has earned.

Joseph, his son, has dedicated himself to public service. He has been on the New York City Planning Commission for 5 years, and he was just re-elected. He is an example of somebody who has given his time, his tithe, and his talent to serve in the great State of New York and our great country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating what he has done and really encouraging other people to do what he has done in that he has gone to work. He has done what Americans do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Jeff Williams, Faith Community Church, Janesville, Wisconsin, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, Your Word declares that You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations and that, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Your sovereignty when juxtaposed with our humanity humbles us and causes us to seek Your face on behalf of our Nation and those who govern us.

When beginning his rule, King Solomon prayed for You to grant him a discerning heart to govern Your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. Grant that same discernment in this Chamber today.

I pray for these who have been entrusted with the responsibility to govern this great people that they may adhere to the principles and convictions our country was founded upon.

Bless them and their families, I pray. Your prophet Moses prayed saying: "May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us and establish the work of our hands for us." May that same favor rest upon this, the people's House, today.

In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIREs led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR JEFF WILLIAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). Without objection, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my absolute privilege and honor to welcome Pastor Jeff Williams, who just led us in the opening prayer. He is the head pastor at Faith Community Church in Janesville, Wisconsin.